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In order to finance construction of the Disabled Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the U.S. House of Representatives passed unanimously on May 14 the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. This requires the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to help finance construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial. The bill awaits Senate approval.

The bill, cosponsored by Representatives Dennis Moore, R-Kan., and Mark Kirk, R-Ill., would mean the production of 350,000 silver dollars to honor the estimated 3 million living disabled American veterans and all those throughout U.S. military history. A special surcharge on the coins will be added to privately donated money to build the memorial on a two-acre site adjacent to the National Mall and within full view of the U.S. Capitol.

Inspiration for the memorial came from philanthropist Lois Pope, who began working on the project more than 10 years ago when she cofounded the DVLMF. Congress passed legislation authorizing the project in 2000.

“The coin bill passing Congress,” said Pope, “is another step towards building a memorial that will honor these true American heroes. We owe them this honor. And we owe it to future generations who, by visiting this memorial, will come to understand the true meaning of character, dedication, and patriotism.”

Site dedication for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will be held around Veterans Day this year, and it should be completed by 2010. For additional information, visit the memorial online site at www.avdlm.com/memorial.php or call (888) 525-2009.